ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A photosensor system having a photosensor array constituted by two-dimensionally arraying a plurality of photosensors includes a driver circuit for supplying a drive signal to the photosensors, and a controller for controlling reading operation of a subject image and sensitivity setting. Before the start of normal reading operation of a subject image, pre-reading operation of changing the image reading sensitivity at a plurality of stages for respective rows is executed. A row in an optimal image reading state is easily determined based on the dynamic range distribution of the lightness data of read image data or a dynamic range distribution from which an abnormal value deviating from the main change trend of lightness data is removed, and the linearly differentiated value of the dynamic range. An image reading sensitivity set for this row is set as an optimal sensitivity. This can simplify sensitivity setting processing and shorten the required time. In addition, an optimal image reading sensitivity can be set in accordance with changes in ambient light and changes in the characteristics of the photosensor. Since a row corresponding to an appropriate image reading sensitivity can be extracted without any influence of an abnormal pixel generated by a foreign substance attached to the sensing surface of the photosensor array, a defect of

the photosensor element, or the like, a reliable reading sensitivity setting method can be provided.